

TO: Interested Parties
FROM: Lael Brainard, National Economic Advisor
RE: Turning Setback into Comeback in America's Manufacturing Cities and Towns

In this year's [State of the Union address](#), President Biden said, "in thousands of cities and towns, the American people are writing the greatest comeback story never told."

The previous administration cut taxes for those at the top and promised a resurgence of manufacturing jobs and factory construction. Instead, manufacturing jobs fell and promised investments [never materialized](#). Those four years exacerbated economic distress for families left behind by failed trickle-down policies. While under the previous administration's COVID economic recovery plan passed in 2020, only a handful of the communities identified as "left behind" received direct support, under President Biden's American Rescue Plan, each and every one of these communities received immediate and direct support to help design an economic comeback strategy that best fit their needs.

President Biden is delivering on his commitment to invest in communities that have been left behind, which are seeing a surge in factory construction, new business startups, and increased participation in the workforce. Following the loss of nearly 200,000 manufacturing jobs under the prior administration, President Biden has overseen the creation of nearly 800,000 manufacturing jobs and catalyzed over [\\$877 billion](#) in announced private sector investments in manufacturing and clean energy. Today, communities across the country are turning setback into comeback.

A recent report by the [Economic Innovation Group](#) confirms that President Biden's agenda is succeeding where the previous administration failed. According to the Economic Innovation Group, "left-behind counties...experienced their strongest three-year period of job creation and business growth since the turn of the 21st century." Since President Biden took office, jobs in those previously "left-behind" counties grew more than four times faster per year than under the previous Administration. This comeback didn't happen by accident. It happened as a result of the Biden-Harris Administration's economic agenda to invest in good jobs, small businesses, and working families – with a special emphasis on the energy communities, factory towns, and other areas that were left behind by the previous administration.

Below are examples of places writing their comeback stories, supported by a combination of Biden-Harris Administration investments, private sector commitments, and strong economic progress:

Milwaukee, WI: Historic Industrial Corridor Receives New Investment

Milwaukee's historic Industrial Corridor was a beacon of economic opportunity for Black families during the Great Migration, but this opportunity started to evaporate because of deindustrialization that began in the late 1970's. Under President Biden, Milwaukee is turning setback into comeback:

- New business applications are up 68% compared to pre-pandemic levels.
- Over 33,000 jobs have been added in the area since President Biden took office.
- The Biden-Harris Administration has [invested](#) \$450 million to clean up the Milwaukee Estuary; [plans to award](#) \$49 million from the Tech Hubs program to position the region as a leader in personalized medicine; and [awarded over](#) \$50 million in transportation grants to improve road safety and reconnect neighborhoods formerly divided by highways. Leveraging \$41 million from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, the Biden-Harris Administration has helped put the city on track to [replace](#) all of its lead pipes within 10 years instead of the initially estimated 60 years.
- The Biden-Harris Administration has also provided support from the Department of Commerce's Recompete Program to [create](#) workforce pathways into quality jobs in the historically segregated 30th

Street Industrial Corridor, as well as named Milwaukee a Workforce Hub to [connect](#) residents to the good-paying jobs created by the President's investments.

Dayton, OH: New Activity in an Invention Capital City

Dayton was home to the first modern factory system, and manufacturing boomed throughout the World War II era. Then, [beginning in the 1970s](#), factories shed jobs, poverty surged, and the downtown population began shrinking. Under President Biden, Dayton is turning setback into comeback:

- While nearly 14,000 jobs left the Dayton area under the prior administration, over 16,000 jobs have been added under President Biden, and a greater share of the population is working.
- Driven by President Biden's Investing in America agenda, manufacturers have announced billions of dollars in [investments](#) in greenfield factories or expansions in the region.
- The President's American Rescue Plan [awarded](#) \$23.5 million to the Ohio Manufacturers Workforce System to scale its Entry-Level Learn and Earn model and train workers for cutting-edge careers, as well as \$138 million to the City of Dayton for [projects](#) such as [investing in small businesses](#), eliminating blight, rehabilitating vacant buildings, and constructing new housing.

Syracuse, NY: A Manufacturing Renaissance

In the recovery from the Great Recession, Syracuse [ranked](#) last in economic growth among the nation's 100 largest metros. Deindustrialization led to job loss, rising poverty, and declining income for families in Syracuse. Under President Biden, Syracuse is turning setback into comeback:

- After more than 22,000 jobs disappeared from the Syracuse region under the prior administration, nearly 25,000 jobs have been added under President Biden. Today, the unemployment rate is lower than *at any point* during the prior administration.
- This strong labor market is pulling workers off the sidelines—the prime age employment to population ratio is up 2.6% from pre-pandemic levels, and up 7.9% for the Black population.
- Driven by the CHIPS and Science Act, Micron [has committed](#) to investing \$50 billion by 2030 and approximately \$100 billion in New York over the next two decades, which will create tens of thousands of additional jobs.
- The Biden-Harris Administration [is investing](#) \$40 million to transform the region into a semiconductor manufacturing Tech Hub, and the White House [named](#) Upstate New York a Workforce Hub to connect Americans to the good-paying jobs being created by these investments.

Scranton, PA: Formerly Distressed Community Charts New Path Forward

In 1992, Scranton was designated by the State of Pennsylvania as financially distressed. The city [struggled](#) to meet its financial obligations, stifling local economic and community growth. Under President Biden, Scranton is turning setback into comeback:

- While over 17,000 jobs were lost under the prior administration, 26,000 jobs have been created in the Scranton area under President Biden's leadership, and the unemployment rate sits at a record low of 3.9%.
- [Leveraging](#) \$68.7 million in Fiscal Recovery Funds from President Biden's American Rescue Plan, the City of Scranton has stabilized its finances and exited distressed status, while supporting projects that invest in [small businesses](#), [childcare access](#), and [stormwater management infrastructure](#).
- With funding from President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, local partners are [laying](#) the groundwork for a new passenger rail line from Scranton to New York.
- Scranton has attracted new [investment](#) from medical and educational institutions.